

Location - From the junction of Interstate 90 and Idaho 3, south on Idaho 3 to Idaho 6, then southwest to U.S. 95 at Potlatch.

Length - 82.8 miles. Allow 2 hours.

Roadway - Idaho 3 and Idaho 6 are both two-lane, paved roads with no passing lanes.

When to see it - Throughout the year.

Special attractions - Old Mission State Park; Coeur d'Alene River Wildlife Management Area; St. Joe National Forest; Palouse Divide Nordic Ski Area ("Park and Ski" cross country area); Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes; Potlatch historic walking tours; Mullan Trail Park, Steam Donkey, 1910 Fire Memorial and historical murals in St. Maries.

Camping - Laird Park, Giant White Pine Park north of Harvard, Pines RV and Camping in Harvard; Scenic 6 RV Park in Potlatch; Heyburn State Park, Benewah County Fairgrounds, Shady River RV Park in or near St. Maries.

Services - Full services in St. Maries; partial services in Potlatch.

Contacts - St. Maries Chamber of Commerce: 208-245-3563, www.stmarieschamber.org; Idaho Panhandle National Forest: 208-245-2531; Old Mission State Park: 208-682-3814; Potlatch City Hall: 208-875-0708, potlatchidaho.org; Coeur d'Alene Area Chamber of Commerce: 208-664-3194 or 877-782-9232, info@coeurdalene.org, www.coeurdalene.org.

White Pine Scenic Byway

The White Pine Scenic Byway begins on Idaho 3 at Interstate 90 near Cataldo, home to Old Mission of the Sacred Heart. Built in the mid-1800's, the mission itself is the oldest building still standing in Idaho; travelers can also visit the nearby Parish House and two historic cemeteries on the grounds, and enjoy the visitor center, walking trails, and picnic areas.

From Cataldo, the White Pine Scenic Byway passes through the lush forests of Idaho's timber country and the numerous lakes and marshlands of the lower Coeur d'Alene River to the town of St. Maries, the Hughes House Museum, and other attractions. The byway then crosses the picturesque St. Maries and St. Joe rivers, the latter of which is the highest navigable river in the world.

The route continues on Idaho 6, meandering south through the town of Emida, and the St. Joe National Forest which boasts the largest stand of White Pine in the country. The byway winds through rolling hills of the Palouse region to the historic town of Potlatch, once site of the largest white pine lumber mill in the world.

